Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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News

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VOLUME 19, NO. 9 MAY 1991

Report on 1991 Session Being Sent to Libraries

A report summarizing the effects of the 1991 legislative session on Montana's library community was mailed out May 7 to all public, special, academic and school libraries in the state.

The report was written by Richard Miller, state librarian, and Debbie Schlesinger, chair of the Montana Library Association's legislative committee.

All House and Senate bills and Joint Resolutions that related to libraries and were considered this past session are listed, whether or not they became law.

Miller asks librarians to make sure their local budget officers (and their library trustees) get a copy of this report or are informed of its contents.

"Numerous phone calls have been received from budget officers in counties and cities asking for this information," he said.

Taylor, Guthrie Join State Library Commission

Gov. Stan Stephens has appointed Vada Taylor of Glendive and Peggy Guthrie of Choteau to the State Library Commission.

Taylor is a member of the Friends of the Glendive Public Library. Guthrie served on the Blue Ribbon Panel on Libraries at Risk.

The new members attended their first commission meeting April 27 in Missoula.

State Law Librarian Judy Meadows, left, received a plaque March 14 thanking her for serving as presiding official of the Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services, held January 6-8, 1991, in Helena. Presenting the plaque were: Margaret S. Warden, conference co-director, and Richard Miller, State Librarian.

Library Services Advisory Council Members Needed

The Montana Library Services Advisory Council needs three new members to represent public libraries and library users in the Sagebrush Federation and the Broad Valleys Federation areas.

Advisory Council members who represent users in federation areas may not be library staff or trustees.

Persons nominated to represent library users in either of the two federation areas must first be approved by the respective federation's advisory board.

Advisory Council members advise the State Library Commission on the use of federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) funds and on other issues. LSCA funds are used to improve library services, including: construction and remodeling projects, automation, interlibrary cooperation and continuing education.

The council meets four times each year, usually in Helena, and travel costs are reimbursed by the State Library.

Nominations are to be made using a standard form available from Mary Jane West at the State Library, 444-3384. All nominations must be returned to the State Library by July 24, 1991. Nominations received after this date will not be considered.

White House Conference Delegates Seek Input

Three of Montana's four delegates to the July 9-13 White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS) in Washington, D.C., were able to visit with participants at the Montana Library Association's (MLA) annual conference in Missoula.

The WHCLIS delegates spent some busy days discussing library issues and listening to ideas offered by the conference attendees.

The delegates ask that anyone with comments, questions, or ideas that could help them represent Montana at the upcoming conference please contact them.

(Note: persons interested in obtaining a copy of the "Official Resolutions of the 1991 Montana Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services" should contact Diane Gunderson at the Montana State Library, 444-5349.)

Following are the names and addresses of the four delegates and four alternates and the categories they represent:

DELEGATE ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE LIST

Government Official Delegate:
Carl Knudsen
Box 298
Saco, MT 59261
527-3221

Government Official Alternate:
Frank Davis
436 S. Idaho
Dillon, MT 59725
683-5841

General Public Delegate:
Deanna Parisian
915 1st Ave. S.
Great Falls, MT 59405
791-2212

General Public Alternate:
Bruce Bugbee
6310 Woods Rd.
Missoula, MT 59802
728-4476

Trustees and Friends Delegate:
James Nybo
P.O. Box 1687
Helena, MT 59624
442-9873

Trustees and Friends Alternate:
Eleanor Gray
220 S. Merriam
Miles City, MT 59301
232-4752

Library and Information Professionals Delegate:
John York
816 1st Ave. W.
Kalispell, MT 59901
756-4504

Library and Information Professionals Alternate:
Gaye Walter
2194 N. 4 Rd.
Huntley, MT 59037
657-8256

State Librarian Richard Miller read to first- through third-graders from Helena's Ray Bjork School in the Capitol rotunda on April 17 (during National Library Week).

Success Stories Sought

The American Library Association's Public Information Office is looking for "success stories" of how librarians make a difference, for use in placing media stories.

Examples might include stories of how a librarian helped someone find a job or get a scholarship, defended against censorship or researched community issues.

Photos, thank-you notes, articles or testimonials should be sent to Success Stories, ALA/PIO, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL, 60611.

Please send copies of any "Success Stories" you submit to the ALA to the State Library, 1515 E. 6th Ave., Helena, 59620.

Union Newspaper List At Historical Society

Public libraries looking for a comprehensive list of newspaper holdings are advised to consult *A Union List of Montana Newspapers in Montana Repositories*, which Montana Historical Society Librarian Bob Clark said they should have received in 1986.

The listing shows newspaper holdings of various repositories in Montana, whether their copies are originals or microfilm and who holds master negatives from which duplicates may be ordered.

If librarians cannot find their complimentary copy, replacement copies can be ordered from the Society Library, 225 N. Roberts, Helena, MT, 59620, for $17.50 to cover the cost of duplicating.

Brochure Details Library Services to Handicapped

The State Library's Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped has a new brochure available that describes the free services it can provide to qualifying visually or physically handicapped persons.

Librarians or others who would like copies of the new brochure may call 444-2064 (in Helena) or toll-free 1-800-332-3400.

Children's Book Reviews

The key after each review gives the grade levels for which the book would be appropriate, the reviewer's assessment of the book's quality (Q) and popularity (P) level, with Q4 and P4 being the highest possible rating, the publisher's information, publication date, number of pages, price and ISBN number.

Iktomi and the Buffalo Skull, written and illustrated by Paul Goble (reviewed by Megan Fite, librarian, Lame Deer Public School).

Iktomi represents that classic type, the trickster. These stories are Sioux in theme, thus along with a fascinating tale about a foolish Indian, we also learn about powwows, clothing and instruments familiar in this culture. The pictures are intricate and colorful.

Iktomi interrupts the powwow of the mouse people and gets his head stuck in the sacred skull. The storyteller makes comments or asks the reader questions as the story develops. This device makes it easy to use with a group of children. Try reading once without stopping, then rereading with pauses to discuss these asides.

I introduced Iktomi early in the school year and found Goble books one of my popular items. Kids never get tired of Iktomi's lies and tricks!

(Grades PS-2; Q4/P3; Orchard Books; unpaged; $14.99; ISBN 0-531-08511-2.)

Tam Lin, retold by Susan Cooper (reviewed by Michael Hutchinson, children's department, Flathead County Library, Kalispell).

Every now and then an age-old, nearly forgotten story will come bounding back from obscurity. The old Celtic tale of Tam Lin, the Elfin knight, is an example, having recently been the subject of two excellent picture-book retellings (the other by popular fantasy author Jane Yolen) plus a modern-day novelization by Pamela Dean.

This version is a classically beautiful fairy tale, filled with magic, romance and adventure, and concluded with a very satisfying happy ending.

The plucky and resourceful Princess Margaret makes a refreshingly strong female protagonist. Cooper's lilting prose lends itself well to reading aloud, and Warwick Hutton's gently luminous watercolor illustrations capture the mystical mood of the story nicely.

Both this book and the Yolen version can be very highly recommended, though to purchase both would be a redundancy for most libraries.

(Grades PS-4; Q3/P3; MacMillan Publishing Co.; 32 pages; $13.95.)

The Story of Things, by Kate Morgan (reviewed by Michael Hutchinson).

Morgan (a pseudonym) has set herself an ambitious task: chronicling the entire history of mankind's inventions from stone tools to the space shuttle in a slim, 32-page volume. It is, by necessity, an extremely brief overview, but could stimulate creative interest in a very young audience. Readers needing more in-depth treatment of a time period or development area will want to pursue further sources.

The first half is really quite good, covering the family life and earliest discoveries of prehistoric humanity. It should have considerable appeal to budding anthropologists. As we enter the era of recorded history, however, too much happens too fast, and the result is less effective. Either a longer book or a narrower field of study would probably have been more useful. Illustrator Joyce Audy Zarin's watercolors tend to be somewhat busy but do display an amazing variety of everyday items appearing through the centuries.

With some reservations, this book can be recommended as an additional purchase by libraries whose needs in either technological history or anthropological studies are high.

(Grades PS-2; Walker & Co.; 32 pages; $14.95.)

Poverty in America: What We Can Do About It, by Bertha Davis (reviewed by Marilyn Taylor, Flathead County Library, Kalispell).

It is appalling that our country has so much to offer, yet 13.1% of the American population lives in poverty. Davis uses her statistics well to point out a terrible problem. Surprisingly, poor whites outnumber blacks by better than 2-1, and nearly 20% of those living in poverty are younger than 18.

Davis looks at major social welfare programs and offers policies to help combat this complex situation. I was impressed by her knowledge and understanding of the problems and the solutions that she outlines for carrying on the war against poverty. All of us, and especially the younger generation, would benefit by becoming better educated about and more aware of this problem.

(Grades 4-up; Q4/P2; Watts; 144 pages; $12.90.)

Edward Lear: King of Nonsense, by Gloria Kamen (reviewed by Judy Stephenson, librarian, Big Sandy Schools).

Edward Lear is usually remembered for her nonsense verse and quaint accompanying sketches. This delightful biography allows young readers to meet Lear as a child and watch him grow to adulthood and old age.

Through the pages of this little book, Lear becomes a real person who grew up in a huge family, lost his stockbroker father to debtor's prison and suffered from epilepsy and asthma, yet became a talented and well-known artist before he gained his lasting reputation as "Mr. Nonsense."

The young reader who wants a success story or who has encountered some of Lear's limericks will be delighted with Kamen's work. The book is peppered with illustrations by Lear and the author.

(Grades 2-5; Q3/P2; Atheneum, New York, NY; 1990; 74 pages; $12.95.)

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A Place to Claim as Home, by Patricia Willis (reviewed by Judy Stephenson).

Henry Compton, a 13-year-old orphan, is hired out by his foster mother who doesn't seem to want him anymore. The woman he goes to work for doesn't seem too pleased either, but in the summer of 1943, able-bodied young men are scarce. Vicious gossip, theft of valuable hardwood logs, the death of a young neighbor in action in North Africa, and a serious accident bring Henry and Sarah Morrison into conflict and then to understanding.

Sarah is shunned by some of her neighbors because she had a child out of wedlock 13 years earlier and then gave the child up for adoption. She is very quiet and serious and afraid to care until this boy who has also known loss enters her life and is then very nearly snatched from her.

Young readers who wonder what World War II was like on the home front, who are interested in farm life in another time, or who share Henry's experience of being moved around at someone else's whim will value Willis' first novel.

(Grades 6-9; Q3/P2; Clarion Books; 166 pages; $13.95.)

Home Place, by Crescent Dragonwagon, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney (reviewed by Richard Miller, State Librarian).

A bittersweet book, telling the story of a family that discovers the ruins of a house while hiking. The omniscient narrator invites the reader to speculate on who once lived there and to share in their experiences of so many years ago. This is triggered by the finding of artifacts among the ruins--a blue marble, a china doll's arm, a small yellow bottle--and leads into dream-like illustrations which bring the long-dead family to life.

The contrast between the present, with its more vividly painted illustrations, and the past, illustrated with a more subdued, almost daguerreotype coloration, effectively serves to divide the real from the imagined. This should appeal to any child who has ever found anything from the past buried in the backyard. Themes of mortality and time's passage will hold interest through many readings and levels of understanding. The language is near poetry, and the illustrations accompany it beautifully.

Two minor items to carp about: the cover illustration only appears on the dust jacket and not the cover of the book itself; the dust jacket appears to show a white family in the house, whereas the illustrations in the book clearly depict an African-American family as the house's occupants.

(Grades 1-3; Q4/P3; MacMillan; 1990; 32 unnumbered pages; $14.95.)

In Real Life, by J. Hannah Orden (reviewed by Charlotte Henson, librarian, Lincoln Elementary School, Helena).

Ninth-grader Marty confronts friendship, sex and authority in yet another "coming-of-age" novel. She is involved with two boys, best friends, one the chaste honor student and the other the sexy, misunderstood delinquent. In teenage terms, the book chronicles their confusion with assigned roles and Mary's division between the two.

The characters are believable but stereotypical. Their commonplace problems will appeal to the teenage girl audience. I was disappointed in the adult responses and the lack of a comfortable resolution.

(Grades 6-up; P4/Q2; Viking; $12.95; ISBN 0-670-82679-0.)

My Hiroshima, by Junko Morimoto (reviewed by Charlotte Henson).

With sensitive watercolor and ink illustrations and powerfully simple text, the author tells her own story of living through the devastation of Hiroshima. Her brief retelling of the tragedy is as descriptive as I would want to be with grade-school children. I will use it with fourth- and fifth-graders when they read *Saddako and the Thousand Cranes*.

(All ages; Q4/P3; Viking; $12.95; ISBN 0-670-83181-6.)

School Days, by B.G. Hennessy, pictures by Tracey Campbell Pearson (reviewed by Darlene Staffeldt, Information Resources director, Montana State Library).

The author and illustrator have very successfully combined watercolors and rhyming text to tell the story of a very active school day for Mrs. Green's class. Everything is included--loose tooth, fire drills, reading, writing and recess. This will delight most youngsters who pick it up.

(Grades PS-2; Q4/P4; Viking Children's Books; 1990; 32 pages; $13.95; ISBN 0-670-83025-9.)

The Shepherd Boy, by Kim Lewis (reviewed by Darlene Staffeldt).

James wanted so much to be a shepherd like his father. James watches and waits for a full year, and then Christmas comes to bring him the special present he needs in order to become a real shepherd like his father. The illustrations are really life-like and delightful.

(Grades PS-2; Q4/P4; Four Winds Press; 1990; 26 pages; $13.95; ISBN 0-02-758581-6.)

Onion Tears, by Diana Kidd, illustrated by Lucy Montgomery (reviewed by Darlene Staffeldt).

Nam-Huong is a very sad and silent little Vietnamese girl who must learn to trust and be happy again. Her best friend in the whole world is a little yellow canary. The little canary is her only tie to an earlier life when she had family and friends all around her. Her adjustment to her foster home is slow but steady.

Black-and-white illustrations are available throughout the tale. A good story but not one that will be universally popular.

(Grades 2-5; Q4/P2; Orchard Books; 1989; 62 pages; $13.95; ISBN 0-531-05870-0 [trade]; ISBN 0-531-08470-1 [library edition].)

Press Roundup

The **Butte-Silver Bow Public Library** will move in late summer to a building more than twice the size of its current space. The library's county budget request has increased as a result.

Girl Scouts told bedtime stories to young patrons at Whitehall's **John Gregory Library**.

Sanders County Commissioners held a public hearing May 9 to assess local sentiment on forming a **Plains Public Library** district.

The **Lewis & Clark Library's** annual used book sale is scheduled for May 31 in Helena.

A special doll collection was on display during an April 20 open house at the **Big Sandy Branch Library**.

Augusta school children enjoyed acting out a story April 17 at the **Augusta Community Library**.

Billings storyteller Glenda Bell presented her "Country School Trick" on May 4 at the **Great Falls Public Library**.

Some of the proceeds from a very successful AAUW book sale in April went to the **Parmly Billings Library** foundation.

The **Phillips County Library** in Malta received three Montana history books courtesy of a local women's club donation.

A children's original art contest and a photography contest were part of the **Conrad Public Library's** celebration of National Library Week.

Glendive Public Library held a special mime and dance presentation during that week.

An annual Friends of the **Valier Public Library** dinner on April 14 featured storyteller (and State Library Commission member) Lorrie Monprode-Holt.

Elementary school students made papier-mache masks for display at the **Livingston Public Library**.

Liberty County Library in Chester is offering a special set of Chinese videos to patrons.

The **Wibaux Public Library** has information on companies that hire people for jobs in Kuwait.

MSU engineering students built a special structure to hold donations to the "Million Dime" campaign at **Bozeman Public Library**.

Open houses, plays, free book drawings, and/or read-alouds were held during National Library Week at: **Missoula Public Library**; **Wedsworth Memorial Library** in Cascade; **Big Sandy Branch Library**; **Laurel Public Library**; **Roosevelt County Library** in Wolf Point; **Twin Bridges Public Library**; **Choteau Public Library**; **Glendive Public Library**; **Three Forks Community Library**; **Parmly Billings Library**; **Daniels County Library** in Scobey; **Harlem Public Library**, and **Hearst Free Library** in Anaconda, among others.

The **Bitterroot Public Library** in Hamilton held its semi-annual book sale on April 18-20.

Installation of the new computerized circulation system is underway at the **Flathead County Library** in Kalispell. Checkout on the system is scheduled for late August.

Fundraising for new quarters for the **Stillwater County Library** in Columbus (in a wing of the proposed Museum of the Beartooths) is in full swing.

The **Twin Bridges Library** has seen an 88% circulation increase and a 22% city funding decrease during the past five years, according to a library fact sheet.

Classes in parenting, fly tying, oral history and computers are being offered this spring at the **Kohrs Memorial Library** in Deer Lodge.

Guides for high school seniors planning on college are available at the **Ekalaka Public Library**.

A new stuffed, sit-upon lion for story times will be just part of the bounty from the **Dillon City Library's** $30,000 grant from the Steele-Reese Foundation.

An open house on April 9 marked the **Havre-Hill County Library** building's fifth anniversary.

Wedsworth Memorial Library in Cascade rejected a Title II grant due to remodeling requirements.

MLA Awards Announced

Each year, the Montana Library Association honors individuals across the state for their outstanding contributions to the advancement of library services.

This year's winners are:

School Administrator of the Year Award: Joseph M. Stauduhar, principal of Missoula's Washington School;

Trustee of the Year Award: George James, trustee of the Lincoln County Libraries;

Special Friend to Libraries Award: Royal Johnson, former trustee of Parmly Billings Library and currently state representative for District 88 and member of the library's foundation;

Intellectual Freedom Award: U.S. Congressman Pat Williams, D-MT.

Automation Update

The new $320,000 Dynix system at the **Flathead County Library** in Kalispell will link up the library and its four branches via 31 computers. Patrons should be able to use it by this summer.

R.R. Bowker has published two titles on computer software: *Only the Best*, which presents 183 computer programs rated the best in a survey of 37 evaluation services, and *Only the Best: A Cumulative Guide to Highest Rated Educational Software, 1985-1989, Pre-School - Grade 12*.

On the Library Shelf

The following library-related titles are available from Information Resources at the State Library:

Library Managers' Guide to Hiring and Serving Disabled Persons (025.52776 Wright);

Grand Schemes and Nitty-Gritty Details: Library PR That Works, by Ann M. Tuggle and Dawn H. Heller, Libraries Unlimited, 1987 (021.7 Tuggle);

Public Relations for Librarians, by Anne F. Roberts and Susan G. Blandy, Libraries Unlimited, 1989 (021.7 Roberts).

Census Data Available

Montana population and housing data gathered during the 1990 census are available from the State Library and the state Dept. of Commerce's Census & Economic Information Center in Helena.

The census information includes population figures for each Montana county for 1980 and 1990 and the change in that period.

Call the State Library's reference desk, 444-3004, or the CEIC, 444-2896, for the census information.

Meeting Date Changed

The State Library Commission's October meeting date has been changed from Wednesday, October 9, to Monday, October 7, at the Lincoln County Library in Libby.

Wanted: Public Libraries With Video Collections

Several reference questions have prompted the State Library to compile a list of public libraries that have circulating video collections.

If your public library has such a collection, please call Diane Gunderson at 444-5349 by May 24 and let her know.

Calendar of Events

May

27 Memorial Day Holiday

June

11 Federation Coordinators, Helena
12 State Library Commission, Helena
17-19 Reference Institute II, Helena
29-July 4 ALA Annual Conference, Atlanta

ALA Wants Humanities Programming Proposals

Library-based humanities program proposals on the "Let's Talk About It" reading and discussion model are being sought by the ALA.

The ALA, with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities, is looking for non-traditional approaches to attract new audiences.

Proposal deadline is August 15 for projects planned between January and July of 1992. For more information, contact Deb Robertson at 312-280-5057.

Around The State

Special Library Changes:
Arriving--Vivian Hayes, technical services librarian, Montana Historical Society; Kathryn Otto, State Archivist, Montana Historical Society.

Upcoming Conferences

Masquerade: An Institute is being offered in July by the Center for the Study of Children's Literature at Simmons College, Boston. The symposium (for four semester hours) runs from July 2-26; the non-credit institute is scheduled for July 22-26.

Call the center at 617-738-2257 for more information.

An **Archival Cataloging Workshop** will take place July 25 & 26 at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Texas at Austin.

Also at the University of Texas at Austin will be a one-day seminar on September 13 entitled, **The Vital Basics of Records Management Today**.

For information on either of the Austin programs, call Ms. Mel Boggins, 512-471-8806.

Montana State Library Commission

Mary Doggett, *Chair*
White Sulphur Springs

Lloyd Wallin, *Vice-Chair*
Deer Lodge

Nancy Keenan
Helena

Anne Hauptman
Billings

Michael Schulz
Dillon

Vada Taylor
Glendive

Peggy Guthrie
Choteau

Commissioners' addresses are in the *Montana Library Directory*

Richard T. Miller, Jr., *State Librarian*

Cathy Siegner, *Newsletter Editor*, 444-5353

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